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Missouri's Labor Market Conditions Remained Steady in May

Missouri's unadjusted unemployment rate was unchanged between April and May, remaining at 4.9 percent, nearly one point below the nation's unemployment rate of 5.8 percent. Also, for the second consecutive month, employment increased in the state.

Nonfarm employment increased by 6,900 in May, following a net increase of 12,500 jobs in April, the largest increase since October of 2000.

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by three-tenths of a point in May to 5.3 percent.

"We are very pleased to see these encouraging economic signs. We have an increase in our employment for the second straight month and our unemployment rate continues to rank well below the national rate. Both are indicators of economic growth in Missouri," said DED Director Joseph L. Driskill.

"Improvement that normally occurs in the unemployment rate in the spring did not occur this May, which resulted in the seasonally adjusted increase. Similar conditions have prevailed since the beginning of the year. The unadjusted rate has been falling since January, but not by the amount we usually experience as winter weather gives way to spring."

Seasonally adjusted unemployment has been edging back up since the unusual four-tenths of a point decrease in January, but the current rate is still lower than in any month in 2002, except January, when the rate was also 5.3 percent. About 157,000 Missourians were estimated to have been jobless in May, down by about 7,200 from May 2002.

Non-farm payrolls added 1,500 jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis. This is the second consecutive monthly increase in employment, although smaller than last month's revised gain of 10,300 jobs. Growth in employment in the month appears to have been limited to some extent by an early ending of spring semesters at schools and colleges. There was a considerable drop in the May employment figures for education, whereas last year's decreases tended to occur later in June or even July.

According to employment data, most industry super sectors showed only small changes between April and May, on a seasonally adjusted basis, as total non-farm employment edged up to 2,647,100 jobs. Leisure and hospitality industries added 6,000 jobs, while financial activities and construction employment were up by 1,200 and 1,000 jobs, respectively.

Government employment was down by 3,000 jobs in May, which includes the unusually early decreases in employment at education institutions. Trade, transportation and utilities decreased by 2,500, while professional and business services dropped by 2,000.

Over the past year, non-farm payrolls have shed 52,100 jobs, or 1.9 percent, on an unadjusted basis. Most industry groupings have experienced decreasing unemployment during that period. Many industries within the service-providing sectors have gained jobs. Credit intermediation is up by 1,600 jobs, while accounting and bookkeeping services have added 1,000 jobs. Health care and social assistance employment is up by 5,900, while religious, grant-making, civic and professional organizations have added 4,500.

State government employment is 17,800 jobs below last year's level, a 16.5 percent decrease, and manufacturing employment, with the lone exception of food manufacturing (+2,300 jobs), is down by 11,200 jobs over the year.

MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (MAY 2003), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (MARCH AND APRIL 2003), AND YEAR AGO (MAY 2002)

	MAY 2003	APR 2003	MAR 2003	MAY 2002		MAY 2003	APR 2003	MAR 2003	MAY 2002
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	5.8	5.8	6.2	5.5	Atchison	3.1	2.7	2.7	3.3
MISSOURI	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.1	Audrain	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.9
ST. LOUIS MSA	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.4	Barton	3.7	3.6	3.9	3.5
Franklin	4.9	5.1	5.6	5.8	Bates	5.8	6.3	6.8	6.9
Jefferson	4.8	5.0	5.4	5.4	Benton	6.2	6.8	7.4	6.2
Lincoln	5.4	5.5	6.1	5.3	Caldwell	7.0	6.7	7.3	7.3
St. Charles	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.7	Carroll	4.9	5.0	5.7	5.2
St. Louis County	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.6	Cedar	6.9	5.5	6.7	5.4
Warren	5.8	5.3	6.1	5.5	Chariton	4.8	4.9	5.6	6.2
St. Louis City	9.0	8.6	8.0	9.3	Clark	6.3	6.7	7.5	7.0
KANSAS CITY MSA	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	Cooper	3.1	3.1	3.8	3.3
Cass	4.2	4.2	4.5	4.1	Crawford	6.5	6.8	7.2	6.3
Clay	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.9	Dade	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.9
Clinton	4.1	4.4	5.4	4.1	Dallas	5.5	6.0	5.9	6.5
Jackson	6.0	5.8	5.6	6.1	Daviess	5.4	5.7	5.7	5.8
Lafayette	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.3	DeKalb	4.2	4.8	6.1	4.8
Platte	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.9	Dent	5.5	6.3	6.9	6.6
Ray	5.1	5.1	5.5	4.9	Douglas	7.0	7.8	8.7	11.0
SPRINGFIELD MSA	3.4	3.5	3.5	4.1	Dunklin	7.4	7.5	7.9	7.0
Christian	3.6	3.9	4.5	4.0	Gasconade	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.6
Greene	3.3	3.3	3.3	4.0	Gentry	3.0	2.8	3.4	4.9
Webster	3.8	4.1	3.8	5.3	Grundy	5.0	5.3	5.8	5.3
JOPLIN MSA	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.8	Harrison	3.7	4.2	5.3	4.7
Jasper	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.6	Henry	7.3	7.6	7.5	5.4
Newton	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.1	Hickory	8.6	8.2	9.4	6.6
COLUMBIA MSA	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	Holt	5.2	5.0	5.2	3.7
Boone	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	Howard	3.6	3.5	4.3	4.5
ST. JOSEPH MSA	5.0	5.0	5.5	5.7	Iron	8.2	7.8	8.6	11.0
Andrew	4.1	3.9	4.8	5.3	Johnson	3.5	3.3	3.6	4.0
Buchanan	5.1	5.2	5.6	5.8	Knox	3.5	3.3	4.4	3.6
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	3.0	3.4	4.3	2.8	Laclede	9.8	9.4	9.4	6.3
Adair	2.9	3.1	3.8	2.6	Lewis	4.6	4.6	5.0	4.1
Schuyler	4.1	5.3	7.4	4.0	Linn	6.0	5.9	7.1	6.1
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	5.0	5.1	5.5	5.4	Livingston	4.1	4.2	4.6	3.7
Butler	4.5	4.7	5.1	4.9	McDonald	6.1	6.0	5.7	5.0
Carter	6.3	6.0	7.3	6.1	Macon	4.2	4.9	6.2	5.9
Ripley	6.5	6.2	5.9	6.9	Madison	7.2	7.2	8.3	9.7
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	4.5	5.6	7.3	5.4	Mercer	5.7	6.9	7.9	4.7
Camden	4.5	5.5	7.2	4.7	Monroe	6.0	6.2	7.6	6.6
Miller	4.5	5.6	7.4	6.3	Montgomery	5.8	6.2	7.3	5.7
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.4	Morgan	5.4	6.1	7.6	6.5
Bollinger	6.4	6.5	6.6	8.8	Nodaway	1.8	1.6	2.2	2.1
Cape Girardeau	3.7	3.5	3.6	4.1	Ozark	4.3	5.3	5.9	5.8
Mississippi	6.4	6.1	6.3	6.7	Pemiscot	10.6	10.5	10.6	9.0
New Madrid	9.2	9.1	10.4	8.0	Perry	3.1	2.9	3.2	3.6
Scott	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.4	Pettis	4.8	4.9	5.1	5.7
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.6	Pike	4.5	4.7	5.1	4.9
Callaway	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.8	Polk	4.8	3.9	3.8	4.7
Cole	2.6	2.5	2.8	3.0	Pulaski	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.6
Moniteau	3.0	3.2	3.5	4.3	Putnam	6.1	7.8	8.3	3.4
Osage	3.9	4.4	4.3	5.4	Randolph	4.6	4.8	4.9	5.6
HOWELL -OREGON-SHANNON LMA	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.0	Reynolds	8.5	9.2	10.2	7.8
Howell	5.2	5.1	4.7	5.1	St. Clair	6.9	7.1	7.6	6.6
Oregon	4.0	3.9	4.3	5.0	Ste. Genevieve	5.0	5.2	5.3	5.7
Shannon	6.2	6.5	7.9	4.8	Saline	4.7	4.6	4.9	5.9
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	4.4	4.5	4.8	4.6	Scotland	4.3	3.7	5.2	3.9
Barry	4.3	4.6	4.9	4.3	Shelby	4.5	4.9	6.6	5.3
Lawrence	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.8	Stoddard	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.0
MARION-RALLS LMA	5.3	5.1	5.7	5.5	Stone	6.8	9.0	13.6	6.4
Marion	5.2	4.9	5.4	5.5	Sullivan	9.4	10.9	11.4	3.9
Ralls	5.5	5.5	6.7	5.4	Taney	4.9	7.2	11.8	5.2
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.4	Texas	7.6	7.4	7.9	7.3
Maries	3.2	3.4	3.5	5.1	Vernon	4.3	4.3	4.7	6.1
Phelps	2.8	3.1	3.3	3.0	Wayne	10.1	10.2	10.9	11.0
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	7.5	7.1	7.7	8.1	Worth	4.7	4.2	3.3	6.1
St. Francois	7.1	6.5	6.8	7.5	Wright	7.0	6.6	7.1	8.4
Washington	8.5	8.7	9.9	9.6					

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.

NOTE: SUBSTATE AREA DATA FOR 2002 HAVE BEEN REVISED BUT ARE PROVISIONAL: NOT YET OFFICIAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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